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Nationwide, this legislation will affect the approximately 200 remaining veterans who have still not received an equitable settlement from the IRS—roughly 1/3 of these veterans reside in the State of California.

Basically this legislation boils down to restoring a sense of fairness. We need to do what is right and put an end to this inequitable situation once and for all. These veterans stood up for America—It’s time we stand up for them.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LESTER L. LYLES

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Lester L. Lyles, United States Air Force, on the occasion of his promotion to General. On May 27, 1999, LTG Lyles will become only the 2nd African American four star commander in the United States Air Force. Currently on active duty, LTG Lyles has fought tirelessly and contributed greatly to the defense of our nation and to equal opportunity for other soldiers of color.

He currently is serving as the director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Department of Defense at the Pentagon. The organization is presidentially chartered and mandated by Congress to acquire highly effective ballistic missile defense systems for forward-deployed and expeditionary elements of the U.S. Armed Forces.

LTG Lyles entered the Air Force in 1968 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He served in a variety of both tactical and staff positions throughout his illustrious career. In 1992, LTG Lyles became the vice-commander of Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill Air Force Base. He served as commander of the center from 1993–1994, then was assigned to command the Headquarters Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base. He served in this capacity until August 1996 when he assumed his current position.

LTG Lyles is a highly decorated soldier. He has received the department’s Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and a myriad of other awards.

LTG Lyles has an impressive educational background. He is a graduate of prestigious senior service schools including the Armed Forces Staff College, the National War College, and the Defense Systems Management College. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Howard University, Washington, DC, and a Master of Science degree in mechanical and nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces.

LTG Lyles serves proudly as a member of the United States Armed Forces. He is a distinguished soldier whose accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force, and the United States of America.

On this occasion, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join his family, friends, and colleagues as we recognize LTG Lester Lyles on his promotion to four star General in the United States Air Force.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FREDERIC CHOPIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of one of the world’s most enduring musicians. Frédéric Chopin. Chopin was born in Zelazowa Wola, a village six miles from Warsaw, Poland on March 1, 1810. He suffered from tuberculosis and died in Paris at the age of 39 on October 17, 1849. This year his life and work will be celebrated around the world, and it brings me and my Polish heritage great pride to recognize this event.

Chopin’s abilities were recognized at an early age. At 9, he played a concerto at a public concert. He published his first composition at 15. And at the age of 21, Chopin moved to Paris where he was well-received. He taught piano lessons and often played in private homes, preferring this to public concerts.

One of the best-known and best-loved composers of the romantic period, Chopin was devoted to the piano, and his more than 200 compositions demonstrate his grace and skill. And his admirers included fellow composer Franz Liszt and Robert Schumann. Chopin reportedly fell deeply in love with the novelist George Sand (Aurore Dudevant), and he described her as his inspiration.

His works include two sets of études, two sonatas, four ballads, many pieces he titled Preludes, impromptus, or scherzos, and a great number of dances. Included among the latter are a number of waltzes, but also mazurkas and six polonaises, dances from his native Poland. Some of these dance pieces are among Chopin’s best-known works, including the Polonaise in A-flat major and the Waltz in C-sharp minor.

Among Chopin’s most engaging works are the Préludes. Intended to serve as improvised beginnings to an intimate recital, these pieces range from gentle melancholy to the dramatic. Many of Chopin’s most beautiful compositions come from the series of short, reflective pieces he called nocturnes. His nocturnes were usually gentle with a flowing bass and demonstrate Chopin’s flair for elegant, song-like melodies.

Indeed, Chopin composed some of the most beautiful piano music ever written, and I applaud those who will pay tribute to this remarkable composer and his Polish heritage in this important anniversary year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate these individuals for the courage and desire to enter the teaching profession.

REMEMBRANCE OF OLD MARBLEHEAD

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the pleasure of joining with my constituents to celebrate Marblehead, Massachusetts’ 350th Anniversary! At the festivities a remarkable young eighth grader from Marblehead Middle School shared her poem, “Remembrance of Old Marblehead” with those assembled, I can attest to the fact that her words and delivery truly “stole the show” and I take great pride in sharing Ms. Katherine Fowley’s fine work with my colleagues:

REMEMBRANCE OF OLD MARBLEHEAD

I stand on the rocks and I listen to the ancient whispers of the sea.

They sing the songs of fishermen, of cannon fire, of boats rich with merchandise.

I lie on the banks of Fort Sewall.

Suddenly, the benches transform into cannons.

Trees become young soldiers.

Townspeople cheer as the proud bow of the Constitution steers into harbor.

At night men gather around a blazing fire.

Their triumphant songs rise to meet the surge of ocean waves.

When I walk on the old roads, I hear the drumming of Glover’s Regiment marching over faddled cobblestones.